

CLAIMS

I CLAIM:

1. A system for visually representing performance and flow analysis of  
a communication network having devices connected by links, comprising:

a first memory for storing a graphical representation of the communication  
network and showing the devices connected by links;

a second memory storing data representing performance and flows in the  
communication network;

a display; and

a processing system operatively connected to the first and the second memory  
and to the display, the processing system selectively mapping the data on the graphical  
representation of the communication network by varying visual characteristics of the devices  
and the links for viewing on the display.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the second memory comprises a  
database of metric values for the devices and the links taken at select times.

3. The system of claim 2 further comprising a data collection system for  
collecting data from the devices and the links at the select times to build the database.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the processing system selectively maps  
the data on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying size of the  
devices and the links for viewing on the display responsive to variation in performance and  
flows in the communication network.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the processing system selectively maps  
the data on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying color of  
the devices and the links for viewing on the display responsive to variation in performance  
and flows in the communication network.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the data comprises metrics of a plurality  
of performance and flow characteristics and the processing system maps select ones of the  
metrics responsive to selection of a desired view of the communication network.

7. A method for visually representing performance and flow analysis of  
a communication network having devices connected by links, comprising:

storing in a memory a graphical representation of the communication network  
and showing the devices connected by links;

storing in a memory data representing performance and flows in the  
communication network;

selectively mapping the data on the graphical representation of the  
communication network by varying visual characteristics of the devices and the links to build  
a graphical display; and

displaying the graphical display on a video display device.

8. The method of claim 7 further collecting data from the devices and the  
links at select times to build a database.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein selectively mapping the data comprises  
mapping the data on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying  
size of the devices and the links for viewing on the display device responsive to variation in  
performance and flows in the communication network.

10. The system of claim 7 wherein selectively mapping the data comprises  
mapping the data on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying

color of the devices and the links for viewing on the display device responsive to variation  
in performance and flows in the communication network.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein the data comprises metrics of a  
plurality of performance and flow characteristics in the communication network.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising selecting a desired view  
of the performance and flows in the communication network, the desired view being  
represented by select ones of the metrics.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein selectively mapping the data on the  
graphical representation of the communication network comprises setting a scale of the  
metrics using minimum and maximum values of the metrics, the scales being used to vary  
visual characteristics of the devices and the links.

14. A method for mapping performance and flow analysis of a communication network having devices connected by links for display on a display device, comprising:

storing in a memory a graphical representation of the communication network and showing the devices connected by links;

storing in a memory data representing performance and flows in the communication network;

storing a plurality of symbols representing different devices and a plurality of edges representing links;

selectively mapping the data on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying visual characteristics of the symbols and the edges responsive to the performance and flows in the communication network to build a graphical display; and

displaying the graphical display on a video display device.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein selectively mapping the data comprises mapping the data on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying size of the symbols and the edges for viewing on the display device responsive to variation in performance and flows in the communication network.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein selectively mapping the data  
comprises mapping the data on the graphical representation of the communication network  
by varying color of the symbols and the edges for viewing on the display device responsive  
to variation in performance and flows in the communication network.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein the edges comprise bidirectional  
arrows for oriented metrics and varying visual characteristics of the bidirectional arrows  
comprises varying thickness of the arrows and contact point of the arrows.

18. The system of claim 14 wherein the edges comprise layered lines with  
each layer representing a different metric.

19. A system for mapping performance and flow analysis of a  
communication network having devices connected by links, comprising:

a first memory for storing a graphical representation of the communication  
network and showing the devices connected by links;

a second memory storing data representing performance and flows in the  
communication network;

a third memory storing a plurality of symbols representing different devices  
and a plurality of edges representing links;

processing means for selectively mapping the data on the graphical  
representation of the communication network by varying visual characteristics of the  
symbols and the edges responsive to the performance and flows in the communication  
network to build a graphical display.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the processing means maps the data  
on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying size of the symbols  
and the edges responsive to variation in performance and flows in the communication  
network.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the processing means maps the data  
on the graphical representation of the communication network by varying color of the  
symbols and the edges responsive to variation in performance and flows in the

4 communication network.

22. The system of claim 19 wherein the edges comprise bidirectional  
2 arrows for oriented metrics and the processing means varying visual characteristics of the  
bidirectional arrows comprises varying thickness of the arrows and contact point of the  
4 arrows.

23. The system of claim 19 wherein the edges comprise layered lines with  
2 each layer representing a different metric and the processing means maps the data on the  
graphical representation of the communication network by varying visual characteristics of  
4 each layer independently responsive to variation in performance and flows in the  
communication network.